



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - February 24, 2003**

- ***In the West***, beneficial rain and snow showers are spreading across areas from ***California*** and the ***Great Basin*** to the ***southern Rockies***. Despite recent improvements in topsoil moisture and high-elevation snow packs, many ***Western*** reservoirs remain low and nearly the entire region faces below-normal spring and summer runoff potential.
- ***On the Plains***, some of the coldest air of the season is overspreading winter wheat areas as far south as ***northern Texas***, but recent snow cover improvements from ***western Kansas northward into Montana*** are minimizing the threat of winterkill, despite this morning's low temperatures ranging from 0 to -30 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a return to bitterly cold weather is increasing livestock stress. In addition, parts of the ***Ohio Valley*** and ***lower Great Lakes region*** are experiencing heavy snow for the second time in three days, hampering rural travel.
- ***In the South***, very warm weather in the ***southern Atlantic region*** is promoting crop and pasture development. In contrast, sharply colder air is overspreading areas ***west of the Delta***.

**Outlook:** For the remainder of today, a period snow will accompany a low-pressure system moving rapidly through the ***Northeast***, while a slow-moving Pacific storm will bring widespread precipitation to the ***Southwest***. By mid-week, a disturbance will trigger light rain and snow from the ***central and southern Plains into the Southeast***. By Thursday, another winter storm will develop along the ***Gulf Coast*** and move northeastward, bringing additional rain and snow to the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 1-5 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***Atlantic Coast States*** and ***northern portions of the Rockies and High Plains***. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation is expected in the ***middle Mississippi Valley***, the ***Southwest***, and the ***Pacific Coast States***. Near-normal temperatures are forecast along the ***Gulf Coast*** and in the ***southern Atlantic States***, but below-normal temperatures are forecast for the remainder of the U.S.

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